

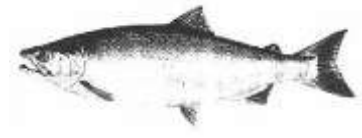
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Time: 2:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #48

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA reports they have secured sufficient broodstock at SGH, and recommends continued fishing opportunity in Valdez Arm and Port Valdez. VFDA reports cost recovery pink salmon harvest on Saturday, July 27 of approximately 304,000 fish. Final harvest numbers for the July 28 fishery in Prince William Sound are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that at least 2.5 million pink salmon were harvested.

PWSAC began its pink salmon cost recovery program on July 24 at AFK and WNH, and has collected approximately 52% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 28. Cost recovery fishing is underway today at AFK and WNH, and PWSAC anticipates meeting its cost recovery goal on Wednesday, July 31. Future CPF openings targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon in hatchery subdistricts will be based on cost recovery fishing progress, run entry, and harvest results from the July 30 fishery. It is possible that a daily fishing schedule will commence on Thursday, August 1, with time and area to be announced at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 31.

Test fishing in the Southwestern District began on July 22, gauging pink salmon run entry and stock composition. The set size per sample location on July 27 ranged from 700 – 2,000 pink salmon. ADF&G otolith contribution estimates for test fishery sampling from July 21 through July 27 result in a harvest composition of 78% hatchery and 22% wild stock pink salmon, with a sample size of approximately 11,200 fish. The hatchery composition for this sample is as follows: 66.8% AFK, 16.9% WNH, 12.6% SGH, and 3.7% CCH.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, **excluding the WNH SHA**, will open to commercial DRIFT GILLNET AND PURSE SEINE fishing for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30.

The Coghill District north of 60° 55.81' N., will open to commercial DRIFT GILLNET AND PURSE SEINE fishing for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 31. The Coghill River weir was pulled for the 2013 season on Saturday, July 27.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30. **Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 23.00' W Long., will be closed to commercial fishing during this period. Anadromous stream closures and regulatory closed waters for the entirety of the Eastern District will be in effect until further notice.**

Waters in the Eastern District, north of a line from 61° 02.855' N., 146° 44.204' W. to 61° 02.373' N., 146° 43.407' W. to 61° 02.992' N., 146° 39.165' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 31. Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 23.00' W. Long., will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District, **excluding the Port Chalmers Subdistrict**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30. Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:

- (1) Siwash Bay: west of a line from 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' W. long.;
- (2) Jonah Bay: west of a line from 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, **excluding the AFK Hatchery SHA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30. **Waters north of the latitude of Squire Point and west of the longitude of Herring Point will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 31.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.

PWS commercial fishers are reminded that area fisheries often necessitate fishing in close proximity to marine mammals. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), the PWS drift gillnet fishery is classified as a Category II fishery. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Avoidance Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing. However, this authorization explicitly does **not** exempt holders of commercial fishing permits from the MMPA prohibition on takes of marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As a participant in the PWS drift gillnet fishery you are automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a participant in a Category II fishery, you must:

- Maintain an MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a photocopy, must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid state or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered or non-threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations.
- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form (visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/interactions/mmap_reporting_form.pdf for a copy).
- If so requested, take an observer aboard your vessel.

Purse seine and set gillnet gear are classified as a category III fisheries under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition in the MMPA. Therefore, you do not need to maintain the MMAP certificate aboard your vessel, but must report any incidental takes of marine mammals within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port. Such reports must be made on the Marine Mammals Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form.

Because some marine mammals are also listed under the Endangered Species Act, incidental takes are also regulated under that act and are not authorized. **All MMPA category fisheries are liable for incidentally taking ESA listed species.**

Please reference http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/esa_factsheet.pdf for a list of marine mammals currently listed under the ESA (you should periodically check with the National Marine Fisheries Service for any changes in listed species). Under the ESA, take means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." 16U.S.C. 1532(19); and harass means an "intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering." (50 C.F.R. 17.3).

To reduce the possibility of incidentally taking an ESA listed species and its associated liability ADF&G recommends that:

- Fishermen participating in area fisheries remain vigilant in monitoring gear when marine mammals may be present.
- Fishermen use avoidance measures (e.g., not fishing or relocating fishing activities when marine mammals are present or likely to be present) to minimize interactions with marine mammals.
- Avoid fishing in areas where marine mammals are likely to be present at night or when visibility or weather conditions make it difficult to spot marine mammals.

For further questions concerning marine mammal regulations call NMFS at 907-271-5006.